

What is claimed is:

1. An image generation system which generates or edits an image using a plurality of image generation devices, comprising:
 - a division unit dividing a target image into a plurality of divided images;
 - a providing unit providing a reference image corresponding to the target image to be displayed on the plurality of image generation devices;
 - a distribution unit distributing a plurality of divided images obtained by said division unit to corresponding image generation devices, and distributing the reference image to the image generation devices;
 - a display unit displaying the divided image and the reference image in the image generation device; and
 - an integration unit integrating divided images generated or edited by the plurality of image generation devices.
2. An image distribution device for use in an image generation system which generates or edits an image using a plurality of image generation devices,

comprising:

a division unit dividing a target image into a plurality of divided images;

a providing unit providing a reference image
5 corresponding to the target image to be displayed on the plurality of image generation devices;

a distribution unit distributing a plurality of divided images obtained by said division unit to corresponding image generation devices, and
10 distributing the reference image to the image generation devices; and

an integration unit integrating divided images generated or edited by the plurality of image generation devices.

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3. An image generation device in a plurality of image generation devices for use in an image generation system which generates or edits an image using the plurality of image generation devices,
20 comprising:

a display unit receiving from an image distribution device a divided image obtained by dividing a target image and a reference image corresponding to the target image and displaying
25 the divided image and the reference image; and

a transmission unit generating an image corresponding to the divided image at an instruction of a user, and transmitting the image to the image distribution device.

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4. A method of generating an image by generating or editing an image using a plurality of image generation devices, comprising:

dividing a target image into a plurality of
10 divided images;

providing a reference image corresponding to the target image to be displayed on the plurality of image generation devices;

distributing a plurality of divided images to
15 corresponding image generation devices, and distributing the reference image to the image generation devices;

displaying the divided image and the reference image in the image generation device; and
20 integrating divided images generated or edited by the plurality of image generation devices.

5. A propagation signal transmitting a program, which is executed by a computer, for providing a
25 method of generating an image by generating or

editing an image using a plurality of image generation devices, said method comprising:

dividing a target image into a plurality of divided images;

5 providing a reference image corresponding to the target image to be displayed on the plurality of image generation devices;

distributing a plurality of divided images to corresponding image generation devices, and
10 distributing the reference image to the image generation devices; and

integrating divided images generated or edited by the plurality of image generation devices.

15 6. A storage medium storing a program for providing a method of generating an image by generating or editing an image using a plurality of image generation devices, said method comprising:

dividing a target image into a plurality of
20 divided images;

providing a reference image corresponding to the target image to be displayed on the plurality of image generation devices;

distributing a plurality of divided images to
25 corresponding image generation devices, and

distributing the reference image to the image generation devices; and

integrating divided images generated or edited by the plurality of image generation devices.

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7. An image generation system which generates or edits an image using a plurality of image generation devices, comprising:

10 a division unit having at least a function of dividing a target image into a plurality of areas and a function of dividing the target image into layers when the target image is formed by a plurality of layers;

15 a distribution unit distributing images divided by said division unit to corresponding image generation devices;

a generation unit generating or editing a divided image corresponding to the received divided image in each image generation device;

20 an integration unit integrating divided images generated or edited by the plurality of image generation devices.

8. The system according to claim 7, wherein
25 said distribution unit distributes only a

divided image requiring generation of a corresponding divided image to the image generation device.

5 9. The system according to claim 7, wherein
said distribution unit distributes together
with the divided image to a corresponding image
generation device a first identifier identifying
the target image, and at least one of a second
10 identifier identifying an area divided by said
division unit and a third identifier identifying
each layer.

10. The system according to claim 9, wherein:
15 each image generation device assigns the first
identifier and at least one of the second and third
identifiers to a generated or edited divided image;
and

20 said integration unit integrates divided
images based on identifiers assigned to divided
images generated or edited by the plurality of
image generation devices.

11. The system according to claim 7, wherein:
25 said distribution unit distributes time series

information defining moving picture to be generated together with the divided image to a corresponding image generation device; and

5 said image generation device generates a plurality of divided images corresponding to the received divided images according to the time series information.

12. The system according to claim 11, wherein
10 said integration unit integrates the plurality of divided images generated by the plurality of image generation devices into a plurality of images.

13. The system according to claim 7, wherein:
15 said distribution unit distributes image movement information defining movement of an image element drawn in a distributed image together with the divided image to a corresponding image generation device; and

20 said image generation device generates a plurality of divided images corresponding to divided images received according to the image movement information.

25 14. The system according to claim 13, wherein

said image movement information contains as a condition of defining movement of the image element at least one of information defining required time, information defining a time interval of each frame of moving picture, information defining enlargement or reduction of the image element, and information defining rotation of the image element.

15. The system according to claim 7, wherein:
- 10 said image generation device outputs a divided image being generated; and
- said integration unit integrates divided images being generated from respective image generation devices; and
- 15 said distribution unit transmits an image integrated by said integration unit to each image generation device.

16. The system according to claim 15, wherein
- 20 said image generation device outputs a divided image being generated at an instruction from a source of the divided image or at each predetermined time interval.

- 25 17. The system according to claim 7, wherein:

said image generation device outputs a divided image in a difference data format; and

said integration unit regenerates a divided image by adding a newly received divided image to a
5 previously received divided image, and integrates regenerated divided images.

18. The system according to claim 7, further comprising

10 an alarm unit raising an alarm when a position of an image element contained in a target divided image are not consistent with a position of the same image element contained in an adjacent divided images.

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19. The system according to claim 7, wherein

said division unit divides a target image based on an arrangement of an image element in the target image or a characteristic of the target
20 image.

20. The system according to claim 7, wherein

said division unit divides the target image such that a sum of lengths of division lines for
25 dividing the target image is smallest.

21. The system according to claim 7, wherein
said division unit divides the target image
depending on a number of image generation devices.

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22. An image distribution device for use in an
image generation system which generates or edits an
image using a plurality of image generation devices,
comprising:

10 a division unit having at least one of a
function of dividing a target image into a
plurality of areas and a function of dividing the
target image into layers when the target image is
formed by a plurality of layers;

15 a distribution unit distributing images
divided by said division unit to corresponding
image generation devices;

an integration unit integrating divided images
generated by the plurality of image generation
20 devices.

23. An image generation device in a plurality of
image generation devices for use in an image
generation system which generates or edits an image
25 using the plurality of image generation devices,

comprising:

a generation unit receiving a divided image obtained by dividing a target image from an image distribution device, and generating a corresponding

5 divided image; and

a transmission unit transmitting a divided image being generated at an instruction from said distribution unit or at each predetermined time interval.

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24. The device according to claim 23, further comprising

a display unit displaying an image obtained by integrating divided images being generated by the
15 image distribution device.

25. A propagation signal transmitting a program, which is executed by a computer, for providing a method of generating an image by generating or
20 editing an image using a plurality of image generation devices, said method comprising:

providing at least a function for dividing a target image into a plurality of areas and a function for dividing the target image into layers
25 when the target image is formed by a plurality of

layers;

distributing the divided images divided by said function to corresponding image generation device; and

- 5 integrating divided images generated by the plurality of image generation device.

26. A propagation signal transmitting a program, which is executed by a computer, for providing a method of generating an image by generating or editing an image using a plurality of image generation devices, said method comprising:

- receiving a divided image obtained by dividing a target image from an image distribution device, and generating a corresponding divided image; and

transmitting a divided image being generated at an instruction from said image distribution device or at each predetermined time interval.

27. A storage medium storing a program for providing a method of generating an image by generating or editing an image using a plurality of image generation devices, said method comprising:

- providing at least a function for dividing a target image into a plurality of areas and a

function for dividing the target image into layers when the target image is formed by a plurality of layers;

distributing the divided images divided by
5 said function to corresponding image generation device; and

integrating divided images generated by the plurality of image generation device.

10 28. A storage medium storing a program for providing a method of generating an image by generating or editing an image using a plurality of image generation devices, said method comprising:

receiving a divided image obtained by dividing
15 a target image from an image distribution device, and generating a corresponding divided image; and

transmitting a divided image being generated at an instruction from said image distribution device or at each predetermined time interval.

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29. A computer program product for generating an image by generating or editing an image using a plurality of image generation devices, said computer program product comprising:

25 a program code for dividing a target image

into a plurality of divided images;

a program code for providing a reference image corresponding to the target image to be displayed on the plurality of image generation devices;

5 a program code for distributing a plurality of divided images to corresponding image generation devices, and distributing the reference image to the image generation devices; and

a program code for integrating divided images
10 generated or edited by the plurality of image generation devices.

30. A computer program product for generating an image by generating or editing an image using a
15 plurality of image generation devices, said computer program product comprising:

a program code for providing at least a function for dividing a target image into a plurality of areas and a function for dividing the
20 target image into layers when the target image is formed by a plurality of layers;

a program code for distributing the divided images divided by said function to corresponding image generation device; and

25 a program code for integrating divided images

generated by the plurality of image generation device.

31. A computer program product for generating an
5 image by generating or editing an image using a plurality of image generation devices, said computer program product comprising:

a program code for receiving a divided image
obtained by dividing a target image from an image
10 distribution device, and generating a corresponding divided image; and

a program code for transmitting a divided
image being generated at an instruction from said
image distribution device or at each predetermined
15 time interval.